

\*\*\*\*\* TOP SECRET \*\*\*\*\*S COPY

OP IMMED  
DE WTE #4380 3490810  
D 150800Z DEC 73  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 86

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

TOHAK 86 VIA AIRCRAFT

DELIVER IN A SEALED ENVELOPE TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER:  
RETAIN NO COPIES; DESTROY ALL TAPES.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DECEMBER 14, 1973

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

THE STAFF MEETING THIS MORNING WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO WATERGATE ASSOCIATED DISCUSSION. BRYCE HARLOW LED OFF BY POINTING OUT THAT THERE IS A POWERFUL COALITION, COMPOSED OF GROUPS LIKE UMW, AFL/CIO, ACLU, ETC., CAMPAIGNING IN A MAJOR LOBBYING EFFORT TO IMPEACH THE PRESIDENT. THESE ARE THE SAME GRUOPHS WHO WERE AGAINST HIM IN THE 1972 ELECTION AND THEIR GOAL IS A POLITICAL COUP D'ETAT. THE DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO WHETHER OR NOT WE SHOULD BE FOR PROMPT HOUSE ACTON ON IMPEACHMENT. THERE WERE ARGUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES BUT THE CONSENSUS FINALLY SEEMED TO BE THAT WE SHOULD NOT DISCUSS TIMING BUT MAINTAIN THE THESIS THAT THERE WERE NO GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT. ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THE DISCLOSURES HAD BEEN PUBLISHED, WE SHOULD PUSH FOR A VOTE TO KILL IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS RATHER THAN FOR AN UP AND DOWN VOTE ON IMPEACHMENT ITSELF.

HERB STEIN THEN ASKED WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE FIRST RATE TEAM OF LAWYERS WE WERE GOING TO GET, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE VARIOUS PROSECUTION GROUPS HAD LEGAL STAFFS TOTALLING WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED. HAIG RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE TWO PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS: ONE WAS A SOURCE OF MONEY TO HIRE THE LAWYERS, THE OTHER WAS FINDING A TOP-NOTCH MAN TO HEAD THE TEAM. MANY OF THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSEST LAWYER FRIENDS HAD BACKED AWAY FROM THE JOB. HAIG DID SAY HE HAD A LEGAL TEAM NOW ASSEMBLED AND WORKING ON THE DISCLOSURE PAPERS AND WOULD HAVE ANOTHER TO CONCENTRATE ON THE IMPEACHMENT ISSUES. HE SAID HE WAS ALSO READY TO ORDER SOMEONE TO RUN THE LEGAL SHOW. (WHILE HE

SCOWCROFT

PSN:009511 PAGE 01 TOR:349/04:52Z DTG:150800Z DEC 73

\*\*\*\*\* TOP SECRET \*\*\*\*\*S COPY

\*\*\*\*\* T O P S E C R E T \*\*\*\*\*S COPY

DID NOT MENTION THIS IN THE MEETING, THAT INDIVIDUAL IS APPARENTLY  
KEN RUSH).

WARM REGARDS.

275

PSN:009511 PAGE 02 OF 02 TOR:349/04:52Z DTG:150800Z DEC 73

\*\*\*\*\* T O P S E C R E T \*\*\*\*\*S COPY